



**June 2011**

**Dear Westford Residents,**



**Jodi Ross**  
Town Manager  
978-692-5500

jross@westfordma.gov  
www.westfordma.gov/tm

Nancy Cook Awarded  
"Unsung Heroine Award"  
Read the full story on  
<http://westford.patch.com>

Congratulations to the  
Westford Academy Girls  
Tennis team for repeating  
as MIAA Division 1 State  
Champions. The Grey  
Ghosts defeated Amherst  
4-1 yesterday at Clark  
University in the state  
final.

Congratulations girls and  
Coach Capone! What a  
tremendous season!

Assistant Town Engineer,  
Jeremy Downs and  
Engineering  
Inspector/Facility  
Technician, Bill Kenison  
have successfully  
completed two  
certification courses in  
the Massachusetts  
Certified Public  
Purchasing Official  
(MCPPO) program offered  
by the Commonwealth of  
Massachusetts Office of  
Inspector General.

Watch Meetings Online



[www.westfordcat.org](http://www.westfordcat.org)

Visit  
[www.westfordma.gov](http://www.westfordma.gov)  
for current news and  
information.

Our community came together to show our united and sincere respect, sympathy and appreciation to Kevin and Rosemary Woitowicz and their family, following the tragic death of their son, Sgt William "Billy" Woitowicz, while conducting combat operations in Afghanistan. Hundreds if not thousands of residents, school children, workers, town employees, and others lined the streets of our town to demonstrate our support to the family. Sgt Woitowicz is a true national hero, a Marine through and through, who made the ultimate sacrifice protecting our freedom.

On Thursday, June 23rd, we will be conducting our town-wide Strategic Planning Retreat to be held in the tent area of Kimball Farms, from 5pm to 9pm. The purpose of this meeting is to improve communication across town boards, town staff, and residents, and to help identify town-wide policy needs, and assist with prioritization of town-wide issues. Several of the topics to be discussed include pedestrian and bicycle safety, town center parking, Bruce Freeman Rail Trail parking, new construction projects in town and the effect on local services, financial issues facing our town, health insurance, capital needs, public works initiative, and acquisition or disposition of town facilities. Please visit our website for more information about this important and informative event, and we hope you are able to join us.  
[www.westfordma.gov/tm/retreat](http://www.westfordma.gov/tm/retreat)

I attended a lovely volunteer appreciation event at the Cameron Senior Center this month, where the staff gave their thanks to the many senior volunteers who devote so much of their time assisting with town operations, and assisting our residents. Thousands of hours are volunteered each year to help, and once again, I would like to personally thank not only our senior volunteers, but all of our volunteers in our town. Thank you for your valuable time and contributions – our town would not be the fantastic community it is without all of you!

Our Strawberry 'n Arts Festival was last weekend on our town common. It was a wonderful event that once again proved why Westford is such a special community in which to reside.

I hope to see you at our Strategic Planning event.



### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT NEWS

After the severe winter of 2010/2011 the Westford Highway Department has begun its spring maintenance. This maintenance work consists of drainage repairs to catch basins, drain manholes, piping and outlets; roadway patching of potholes and other pavement defects and the general overall condition of the roadway infrastructure. The Department has also had the line painting completed on many of the Town streets the work included double yellow lines, white fog lines, crosswalks and stop bars to provide a safer driving roadway. We are in the process of cleaning approximately 3,200 catch basins. This will assure the proper collection of storm water and this cleaning prevents sand and other pollutants from being discharged into the wetlands. The Department's new street sweeper is on order, the Town approved the purchase of this sweeper and we would anticipate its arrival in the next few months. As we enter the summer months the Department will continue its seasonal maintenance and deal with issues as they may arise.



*Painting a stop bar at the intersection of Graniteville Road and Main Street*

### HEALTH DEPARTMENT NEWS

#### Septic System Care Program a Success

On Thursday June 2nd from 7-10 P.M., the Westford Health Department held an informational, Q&A session for homeowners regarding their on-site septic systems & private drinking water wells. Topics included Septic System Care & Maintenance Basics, Title 5 System Inspections/Requirements for Property Transfers, and Private Drinking Water Well Quality (Recommended Testing Parameters & Frequency). The session attracted 30 participants and will become an annual event. Thank you to all that attended!



## **Water Department News**

You won't hear the words "water main break" spoken too frequently at the Water Department. Just like you don't announce a no-hitter during the game – its simply tempting fate just to say the words, and it seems all too often it has happened.

If a water main break does occur please immediately notify the Water Department at 978-692-5529 (if the break occurs during working hours of 7:00 am to 4:00 pm) or the Police Department at 978-692-2161 if it occurs after working hours. Signs of a main break include water bubbling up the in the street, low water pressure, discoloration, or reduced/no flow in your home or business. After hours the Police Dispatcher will notify the Water Department on-call personnel who will immediately respond to the scene of the break. Our personnel will notify the police if it is a main break in order to inform subsequent callers.

The first thing the Water Department will do is to assess the situation and immediately begin isolating the affected area by shutting down the appropriate valves – resulting in temporary loss of water service to associated customers. The Water Department must focus on shutting off the water to limit costly property damage, prevent the loss of thousands or even millions of gallons of treated drinking water, and most importantly protecting public health by preventing contaminants from being introduced into the distribution system.

Please keep in mind that water main breaks are unplanned emergency situations, and cannot be foreseen. The Water Department is very sensitive to the fact that it is a huge inconvenience to be without water service (we all use water too!), and our goal has always been to restore service as swiftly as possible.

Effective immediately, water main break information will be posted on the Water Department website ([www.westfordma.gov/water](http://www.westfordma.gov/water)). You will also find this information posted on the Town Notices. Please be sure to sign up for Town Notices if you are interested in receiving this information.

## **Library News**

Beloved Bookmobile Librarian to Retire: Sadly it is time to say good-bye to Maureen Barry after 29 years of dedicated, conscientious, and personalized service to the residents of Westford. You, her patrons and friends, are cordially invited to a Retirement Open House at the Library - hosted by the Board of Library Trustees – honoring Maureen. Please join us as we celebrate 29 years of Bookmobile Service on Monday, June 27 from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. in the ground level Meeting Room (accessible) of the J. V. Fletcher Library.

Please, R.S.V.P. to Zoe at 978-399-2306 by Wednesday, June 22.

New Hours and Services: Starting July 5, the library will be open on Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; this means that, except for several Saturday holidays, the Fletcher Library will now be open on Saturdays all year long. Further, we will also return to opening on Monday mornings at 10 a.m. instead of 1:00 p.m. Finally, patrons can now order their DVD's from any Consortium Library and pick them up here in Westford instead of having to travel a distance to another library for pickup.



## Town Manager's Newsletter

### Council on Aging

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The Senior Center staff held a reception to thank the numerous volunteers who have contributed close to 10,000 hours to activities and programs coordinated by the Council on Aging staff. Here are some of the activities that volunteers help out with at the Cameron Senior Center. Thank you very much to the volunteers and to the staff who help with coordination.

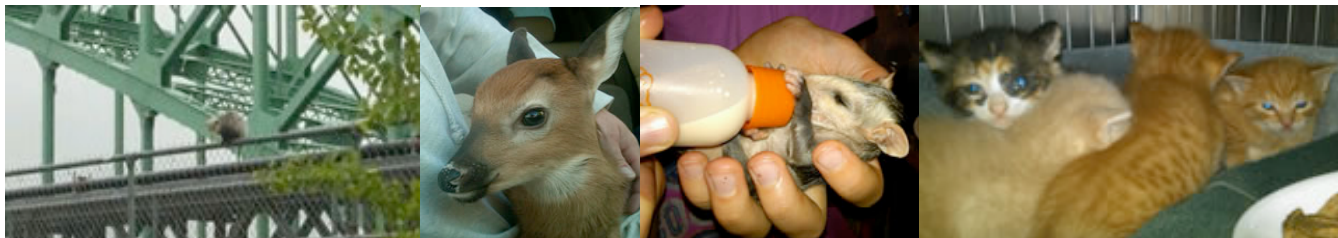
Bucket Brigade  
Computer Instructors  
Corporate Connections  
Transportation  
Fitness Room  
Cookouts  
Fairs  
Bingo  
Special Events  
Activity Planning  
Gardening  
Yard work  
Faithworks  
Newsletter Mailings

Boards/Committees  
Friday Movie  
Golf Tournaments  
Scout Groups  
Cameron Companions  
Meals on Wheels  
Kitchen Help  
Providing English Lessons  
Handymen/Home Repairs  
WA PRIDE  
Church Groups  
Community Partners  
SHINE

Various Classes  
Friendly Visitors  
Library  
Activity Instructors  
Trips  
Grocery Deliveries  
Holiday Baskets  
Gaining Ground  
Food Pantry  
Thrift Shop  
Men's Breakfast  
Women's Breakfast  
Taxes/Finance

## Animal Control

The Westford Animal Control Department is having a busy spring. In addition to helping residents with dog complaints, wildlife issues, and lost animals, we have also rescued many animals. Some of the rescued animals include deer, possums, raccoons, a box full of kittens left in well, and a possum from Tyngsborough Bridge. The animal control department is in need of clean pillowcases, towels, crates, carriers, stainless steel dog/cat bowls to help with the care and safe transportation of these animals. If you have any of these items to donate please contact to [animalcontrol@westfordma.gov](mailto:animalcontrol@westfordma.gov). Please check the department website [www.westfordma.gov/animal](http://www.westfordma.gov/animal) for more information.



### Notice about Black Bears

We have had reports of bear sightings in Westford this month. Animal Control Officers want to remind residents that bird feeders in your yard may attract bears. It is recommended that you bring in your bird feeders at the end of winter. For more information about black bears go to: [www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living\\_with\\_bears.htm](http://www.mass.gov/dfwele/dfw/wildlife/living/living_with_bears.htm)